Never Run From a Sikh—An Adventure Tale—By H. Bedford-Jones "Building Your Own Home"

await their return and climbed toward the tiny bungalow on the hill- ment-

Maitland, after his usual habit, said Maitland, after his usual habit, said ing to conceal something. Being an It is good cricket, of course, chivalric nothing. His coldly efficient eyes missed nothing of the scene before missed nothing of the scene before trying to hold back something, and when one has nothing to expect from them, and narrowed slightly, as though in scorn.

Before the little house stood the man whom they had come to seek-Rao Singh, sometime ressaldar of his majesty's Eighth Sikhs, and now, by reason of a crippled leg sustained in Mesopotamia, a retired gentleman, who lived in his little Malayan bungalow and devoted himself to brushing his uniform, keeping his medals bright and doing a bit of shooting.

Rao Singh had knotted his long rope of uncut hair, and now placed his skullcap over the lump. Taking one end of the twelve-yard turban between his teeth, he began to wind with deft, cunning movements. He wound the cloth about his head in that two-horned shape peculiar to When he had finished he caught up the flat steel turban-ring an inch in width and a foot in diameter, and adjusted it over the turban Then he turned to his visitors with a salute and a smile.

* * * * LORDLY man, this Sikh-six feet two under his turban, a tightcurled black beard over his massive mouth and chin, white ivories untouched by betel-paste, and a wealth of proud, dignified character in his face. A Sikh loses not his dignity, and Rao Singh was a Sikh of the very blood of Guru the master.

"I have a chit for you from the resident, Ressaldar," said Fortescue. He produced a letter and extended it. Rao Singh tore it open and glance through the contents, then came to attention and saluted. "Fortescue Sahib, I am no shikar,

but I can take you into the hills where you can find tiger." Fortescue shook hands and turned This is my companion, Maitland Sahib, who accompanies me in search

of the striped one." Maitland bowed slightly, coldly then lighted a cigarette and turned toward the view from the mountain-

For a space Fortescue and Rao Singh discussed the proposed hunt. The keen intuition of the ressaldar scented two things-first, Fortescue Sahib was an army man of his own type and kind and was less interested in tigers than in getting the expedition off; second, Maitland Sahib knew little of the country, displayed little interest in the game or his companions, and appeared to trea Fortescue and everything around him with a cold, aloof courtesy which was Right! Quite so! However, he has a cannot beat a man of his type. He's had done much more than mere! was not the type whom Fortescue line and all that." should have chosen for a hunt, in the ressaldar's opinion.

Only once did Maitland speak Then, after answering a direct question from Fortescue, he glanced curiously at Rao Singh.

"These Sikh troops," he said, ignoring the ressaldar, "seem always to wear that ring around their turbans. What's the reason?"

the people, a survival from the pri- at having at least forced him into I did not. mal days. They are trained from frank statements. "Now we're makchildhood to throw the ring like a boomerang, or on the same order. bury fied with the arrangements?"

coldly. For a bare instant his efficient, slightly scornful eyes rested upon Fortescue. There were hatred and fear and frozen fury in their shallow gleaming. One would have sworn that he deemed Fortescue a liar and a rascal. Yet Fortescue was an officer and a very courteous gen-

If Fortescue was aware of this attitude, of this silent enmity, he showed it in no word or look. But fate were dogging his heels," I obwhen the two men returned from served. "forcing him into ruin and the stony path to their sedan Rao death and dishonor, no matter what Singh looked after one of the pair happened-and friend cousin right on after the other with an unconcealed

scorn. "By Guru!" he said to himself, "there is something strange about this hunt-

And in this he was quite correct. * * * *

Some days after Fortescue and Maitland departed on their search for stripes I was at the residency on . of the two men came up between us. The resident shook his head sadly. You've heard something of it, then? It could not be entirely hushed up, of course-a sorroy affair, 'pon my word! You've not met the men?

"Fortescue, yes," I answered. "I met him two months ago in Penang. He struck me as a very fine sort of believe them absolutely."

The resident nodded. "Most people do disbelieve them-that's the devil of it! The whole affair will come out officially next month."

At this I sat up. "You don't mean the rumors are true "

"Not half the truth, old chap. This bounded Maitland, now-know him?" I shook my head. The resident opened a box of cheroots and ordered

"Maitland is Fortescue's cousin and heir-point number one. There was something between the two men at home during the war. I'm not sure entirely-er-gather your meaning, about the details, but I fancy that he said. Maitland married the girl who should have married the other chap. Fortescue was a prisoner and reported -one of those beastly messes you know. So, when things quieted down, Fortescue applied for exchange finishing stroke, the last jackpotand came out here.

"But-" I interrupted. Ther ceased my questioning. The resident the money. I don't know Maitland, was going ahead.

That's really behind the whole jolly row," he continued frowningly. I pursued earnestly. "What would "It's no excuse of course. There's be the poetic justice in this thing? another story mixed in with it-a Why, for him to come back from the young subaltern down at Penang. As hills without Maitland, go home and of hot wrath but of deep bitterness. to that, I know nothing; can only marry the girl and live happy ever Fortescue's direct sneers were coundraw inferences. At all events, there after." was a- beastly misapplication of funds, and Fortescue tried to hush at this. it up-paid up the account himself. But too late to prevent the thing tested. being discovered. Since he had settled up, he was presumably to No. no!"

blame. "Oh!" I said. "You meant that the

subaltern-I say-that I know very little." The time or be shown up as a crookresident made a deprecatory gesture. know them. There's a fortnight to dent. spare at present before the thing-be- possibly happen, I assure you."

the man," said Fortescue to be out this way—he has when he and Maitland what would man, and a signed be at peace with myseir. That would be ass enough to venture near be impossible were I to be a moral in Rao Singh. "It might be best to the dying tiger! That's what comes coward."

"However, I happen to know Rao be impossible were I to be a moral in Rao Singh. "It might be best to the dying tiger! That's what comes coward." left the sedan chair to what you Americans called the audit-

> fused. He was trying to hedge, try- missal from the service and disgrace. was making a mess of it. I decided life. None the less, Fortescue could aside his cigarette, gave himself to to help him out.

> "You mean." I said carelessly. "that Maitland dropped onto the fact here! You like gambling, and I'll that Fortescue had presumably looted give you a real wager—you to bet tered. "He did that before, the swine the exchequer and came up to see on fact and I to bet on Rao Singh -and it succeeded. This time-ah! the hole? Very proper of him, I'm Fortescue comes out on top. That's have been glad of the excuse to kill sure."

The resident looked a bit distressed -not over my Americanisms, which decency of a man." he understood perfectly, but over my deductions.

"Er-not altogether," he returned. a ground." Dash it all, man, don't jump at con-

"Besides," persisted the resident, The resident paused, slightly con- exposure, you know. It means dis- hut.

> "Oh, tut!" I said, laughing. "Look his sun-touched features. enough to be a bet and not enough him. He guessed it, and now he will to be gambling with the life and give me no excuse at all." "Done!" said the resident. "But I his hand, and the strong fingers

> am sorry that you wager on so-slight curved in a grip as though to crush

some unseen object between them. "Slight!" I repeated. "Slight! Why, Then he relaxed again, a bitter smile



THE STRIPED CAT HURLED UPWARD AND FORWARD.

way-clear out?" The resident wriggled.

"No," he growled. "I fancy that he gasp."
made some such offer, of course, but The not from decency. Remember, he is

ing progress! Maitland wanted to his cousin, and offered him a

"Beastly luck, what?" I understood his allusion and pared for business.

nodded over my drink. Fortescue did seem to have played in hard luck from the start. To come home and hut allotted the two white men, "we that which he sought, and stood erect, find that this girl had married Maitland, then to come out to Malaya and cover up another man's trouble-only to have Maitland bob up again and

threaten exposure! "Looks as though some adverse a fiercely proud delight, and the spot every time to get the advantage! Fortescue is not the sort to weaken, however. He's the Henley type-head-blooded, but unbowed

THE resident seemed grateful for

and so forth."

this momentary release from my Americanisms.

"Quite so!" he replied. "Quite so And now the two chaps come up here consular business when the subject and set out into the hills after tiger What does that mean, eh? Not hard to guess. Fortescue will be clawed up or something of the sort. They'l return without him: mors coronat opus; and when the question of the funds becomes public it will speedily forgotten."

"Bosh!" I said; "bosh!" The resident gasped. He leaned back in his chair and regarded me with an air of agonized apoplexy. "Er-I say, old chap!" he ventured feehly. "You Americans don't-er-

approve such methods-eh?" "I don't refer to approbation; I re fer to facts," was my answer. "I understand that those two men went as he realized that Fostescue was the tiger would be driven. Maitland, into the hills with that big Sikh Rao Singh? Well, I went tiger hunting with Rao Singh myself, if you than an impulsive idea of the moremember, last time I was up here, and I'm here to say that Rao Singh is about the finest specimen of brown

man I ever encountered." "Old chap, I'm afraid that I don't

"Then listen," I told him. you've set forth Fortescue's history, the poor fellow is up against fate, eyes were steely, as though his waitand Maitland is playing with marked ing were a trap. Maitland, however, cards, in a manner. This is to be the table stakes-if you get me! And it's pursued Maitland wearily. "No use all fixed for Maitland to pull down going over it again. You understand but I do know Fortescue, and I know ter for any length of time him for a finer man than I'll ever be

"Oh, he's not that sort!" he pro

answered. "I'm talking about poetic direct bearing. I can't say that I justice. In a novel Maitland would sympathize with your deliberate sac-

"But my dear fellow, he is perfectly "I can only relate the facts as I upright!" said the scandalized resi-"Nothing of that sort could

repellent rather than attractive. He bit of good blood, you know-good been hard hit; he's down in the dust; master and control himself. He had he's seemingly about to meet utter mastered and controlled his passions and drove his knife into the yellow "Don't apologize for him," I an- extinction. If he were a fool or a and his impulses. swered. "Then you mean that Mait- weakling, all right. But he's not. land offered to cover up the scandal He's a man, by the Lord! And I've outside the but, rapidly smoking his shoulders and knocked him sprawling In Deuteronomy, eighth chapter and until Fortescue could get out of the noticed that heaven always comes cigarette, staring at the village with

> The resident merely shrugged his shoulders. He was a vestryman and darkness. Fortescue's heir. There are the es- did not think highly of my irreverent

RAO SINGH could not move with hut, whistling as he entered. When the door closed after off a man's head like an egg. Well, fashion of evading dishonor, eh? but rapidity was not greatly required figure, a motionless shadow detached When he came near to Fortescue's the but rapidity was not greatly required figure, a motionless shadow detached when he came near to Fortescue's Death or exposure, eh?"

In the hill jungles. Within two itself from the corner of the hut and the party quartered in moved forward to the doorway where trembling seized upon him as he "Quite." And Maitland nodded of the sort, I fancy," he assented a native village, had located a man- Maitland had stood. The startight looked upon the bloody sight. eater ten miles distant, and was pre

> "Tomorrow," he said gravely when he served the evening meal in the shall have sport, sahibs."

When they were alone Fortescue looked at Maitland and smiled thinly. "Sport, indeed. eh?" he observed. 'I suppose that you have already arranged the details? You're that sort." will choose whatever moment seems discharge of your gun will be heard, edge of the steel ring. The evidence will be perfectly plain

that you accidentally killed yourself as we decided in Penang." Fortescue leaned back, lighted a igarette, and fastened upon his direct.

"I have changed my mind, fair ousin," he said abruptly. Maitland started.

You-what? You've not-"Listen!" Fortescue broke in upon his incredulity. "When we planned this thing I was a silly ass. The surprise of it, the threatened disgrace overbore me. You overbore me, too with your hypocritical advice and threats and your smooth tongue. Then it seemed best to go on out of with you have rather spoiled my

not to be a rank coward!" Maitland stared at his cousin with returned to him swiftly, the more so ing a thought of slow decision rather

ment. "Oh!" he said quietly. "You real-

Fortescue said nothing. One would him." have imagined that he was waiting ther, something expected. His blue must have caught the warning. "We've thrashed it all out before."

that I'm unable to cover up the mat-"Quite so!" And Fortescue yawned.

"Don't worry about me, old chap." Between the two men hovered a veiled hostility, a cold feeling, not tered by an icy precision, as though The resident was palpably shocked Maitland were playing too deep a hand to let himself be angered. "Your decision, I hope, may change

"My decision." said Fortescue idly.

know; I mean he'd not kill Maitland. he spoke. "There are elements you Matland?" may not have considered; persons "I'm not talking about killing," I upon whom your disgrace will have a other coldly. "My dear chap. I mean only what get chewed up by a tiger about th's rifice of yourself to save another man want the first chance at stripes your a man who means little or nothself?" ing to you-but that's your affair. Suppose we let it go until morning."

Maitland meanwhile was standing along and gives a man an upward unseeing eyes, shaking bodily in an shove when he gets to the last access of emotion. From his lipe, usually so passionless and cold, a low stream of objurgations fled into the

At length he became silent, poised "Largely ethnological," answered tate and other things."

allusions to the Almighty. At least, motionless for a moment. He took nim, and image. The tate and other things."

allusions to the Almighty. At least, motionless for a moment. He took nim, and image. The tate and other things."

ortescue. "A peculiar weapon of "Oh!" I exclaimed, with secret glee he regarded them as irregreent, but from his pocket a knife and two lime, and the great cat stretched out it was about the only material for household articles, such as jugs, cups.

BUT it is not my purpose in this cartridges. In the starlight he in the dirt and clawed at the ground household articles, such as jugs, cups. worked for a space over the cartridges, then turned again into the

circling a grotesquely shaped turban. For a little, Rao Singh crouched, fumbling in the dust, then found "By Guru!" he whispered wonder-

"This sahib has a strange fashion of hunting!" He moved back slowly, thoughtfully, into the shadows and merged again with them, squatting on his "Certainly," assented Maitland with heels. He produced a small file and precision. "It is very simple. You a small whetstone, took the wide, fiat ring from his turban, and fell to pest when we are waiting alone. The work sharpening the outer circular

As he worked thus he whistled tuneless air between his teeth-an air to which the words of a proverb have been long set in the north of India. The proverb advises: "Never cousin a gaze that was blue and run from a Sikh." It is a very wise proverb, as are most of the sayings of that wise land, and it is excellent take loads from two cartridges last advice. One might imagine that it implies a Sikh to be a coward, but the ground prove it." that is not so. Rao Singh smiled grimly to himself as he worked, as

THE beaters were out—a hundred men strung through the jungle. the world and let others advantage driving the lordly stripes toward the by my going. But the past few days point where the two white men, with Rao Singh for sole gun-bearer,

well flavored jest-the words of that

proverb. perhaps!

appetite for chivalry. I've decided awaited his approach. Fortescue was not the type to crouch in a tree-lashed platform and be men," said Rao Singh. He still horrified eyes and decided that this shoot from ambush. His the choice was not a jest. His cold efficiency to meet the jungle king like a sportsman—in a bush-filled glade,.up which completely cool and collected, voic- cooly impassive, stood beside them. A step behind waited Ras Singh with the spare gun.

"Take" my gun," said Maitland as they waited. "It's a double-barrel, ize what it will mean to you? You and you'll be able to finish the brute realize what it will mean to all of if you wing him first shot. Your tiger, anyway. I care little about

Fortescue shrugged his shoulders for Maitland to say something fur- and exchanged the repeater which he carried for the larger bore of his zontally, swoop upward, dive sud-cousin. The eyes of Rao Singh denly down and breast the water gleamed sharply as he noted the ex-

> Stripes was slowly being driven closer as the clamor of bells and gongs and tin pans bore testimony. panting villager dashed up with word that the tiger had reluctantly left his lair and was snarling before the beaters, who were taking no chances whatever on getting caught. In ten minutes he would be in the mouth of the trap formed by the ravine.

Fortescue glanced at the breech of his weapon and sat down, laying it cross his knees and filling his pipe. "We're down wind," he commented "He couldn't do that, you before morning." Maitland rose as as he struck a match. "Nervous,

> "No reason for it-yet," said the "Oh! Your first big-game shoot, you know. Are you sure you don't

"Thanks! I'm not a bit keen, Maitland yawned. "Fancy I'd not be able to make a decent shot in any "is quite definite and final. I want to event."

Maitland shrugged his shoulders,

use fresh cartridges."

Maitland turned and looked at the ing bureau of the Straits govern- still thinking about my suggestions, took a cigarette from the open case Sikh. "Eh? Oh, I just put in fresh ically, "that a single claw of that dy-"Fortescue can't possibly evade the on the table, and went outside the loads, my man-not five minutes ago. Quite all right, I assure you." Rao Singh saluted and stood imassive, his darkly glistening eyes

searching the ravine and bushes. "By the way," said Fortescue suddenly, "remember there's a kick to relaxation. A slow flush crept across that gun, Maitland. Mind how you "Between you and me, I think it's press the trigger." "He dared not name her!" he mut-Maitland nodded and made no an-

A tense "cluck" from Rao Singh about it and help his cousin out of and poetic justice. Fifty rupees that He must have guessed that I would brought Fortescue to his feet. The The Sikh is a reliable narrator." pipe fell unheeded. At the farther end of the ravine there was a wave, Stillof the bushes, a ripple of the shrub-His nostrils dilated. He held out bery. A hundred yards distant something that was not of the trees or isfied with the way things have turnthe earth gave a whipping move-

nent, and was gone. "Stay here, old chap," gaid Fortescue quietly to his cousin. Then to Rao Singh. "Come along, ressaldar." Fortescue stepped forward. For a brief instant the gaze of Rao Singh bit into Maitland; then the tall Sikh followed with the spare gun. Maitland stood waiting, motionless, pasty look creeping into his face.

The noise of the beaters had quieted, now that the beast was in the trap Through the jungle crouched the rown men at safe distance, waiting onquered. The three men in the gully were entirely alone, save for twitching of the farther bushes.

A whirlwind burst the shrub asunder and out into the open broke the great cat, a very embodiment of feine fury, crouched low. Fortescoe laughed softly and ordered Rao Singh to toss another stone. A snarl broke out upon the brute's face, and Fortescue took a backward step. A: this, stripes padded forward, as a cat creeps low-belied upon a string that s jerked away.

Maitland trembled, clutched at his rifle, tried to call out. Words would not come from his dry throat.

CCARCELY twenty feet, it seemed from Fortescue and the Sikh, the tiger crouched for the spring. Then, moving like a flash, Fortescue shouldered his rifle and fired. The striped cat hurled upward and forward. Fortescue fired a second time. Unhurt, the tiger struck him squarely, just as he had seized the spare gun that Rao Singh thrust into his hand. The gun was jerked across his breast and throat as he fell under the brute. "Wah, Guru!" grunted Rao Singh,

Unhesitant, he had unsheathed his knife and now flung himself forward to divert the tiger from Fortescue He tried for the eyes-and missed His crippled leg failed him.

and black fur. "Wah---"

tionless. his paw at Fortescue's body—and hills thou mayest dig brass." At any Maitland fired, his bullet going home rate, the use of bronze in the manubehind the exposed shoulder. He facture of articles of use or ornafired again as the tiger whirled upon

in the death throes. Maitland threw his weapon away and stumbled forward, running blind-

ing of himself. "Ah---" For a moment his self-control was lost. Then he swore savagely and pulled himself together. A glance showed him that Rao Singh still lay motionless, perhaps dead. He jerked himself forward to where lay the Seven parts of copper to one of tin double-barreled rifle that Fortescue makes a very hard bronze. In prehad dropped. His face like death it- paring bronze for statues the most self. Maitland picked up the weapon jerked out the two brass cases that hardness and readiness to take on a might show marks of tampecing, and

thun flung down the gun. shaking, his mouth loose on the parts of copper to one of tin, for

replaced them with fresh cartridges

He turned, startled, as Rao Singh slowly came to his feet, badly hurt. "Yes, sahib," said the Sikh; "done! And it was your work, for I saw you night and the empty cases there on

A strangled cry broke from Mairland. His eyes swept about him terthough enjoying some inward but ribly. There was no weapon save the gun clutched in the red hands of Fortescue, and that he dared not touch. The other gun he had just discharged. And Rao Singh was moving toward him with a frightful slowness, a frightful certainty!

repeating rifle, tossed aside after he liant blue color of bronzes found had shot the tiger. If he could but in Herculaneum and Pompeil has reach it!

stretched as though to grip. Maitland could not speak. Clutched by fear and horror, he leaped like a startled deer and ran. He sobbed as he ran up the ravine toward the re peater that lay upon the ground Yet Rao Singh no longer attempted to follow, but drew himself erect, smiling grimly, and put his hand to the steel ring about his turban.

came toward Maitland, his hands out-

* * * * You have seen boys sailing "skippers" over the water-round, flat strata of stone that cut the air hori until they lose force and sink. So and curled through the air, and suddenly drove down with a glint and a shimmer of sunlight. Maitland heard the singing hum

of the thing, and shricked at he knew not what. I went up to the residency on the day they brought in Fortescue. The whole town-which I have been careful not to name-was talking about the tiger-shoot, and my friend the resident knew that I had not come on consular business.

"You've seen him?" he inquired when we were alone in his study. "Yes-I've just come from the hos pital," I said, nodding. "They say he'll pull through in good shape-s little marked up about the body, but nothing worse." The resident bit at a cheroot

"Too bad about Maitland," he said "To think that after he'd downed the brute and saved Fortescue, the chap high,

frowning savagely upon me.

"I'm afraid not." And I sighed. be at peace with myself. That would Pardon, Fortescue Sallb," struck | would be ass enough to venture near

ing beast's paw should have reached him and cut half his neck open!" The resident gave me a shart

"You seem to think the story a bit queer," he observed.

"Stronger than that," I responded damned queer! But, of course, Rac Singh is to be relied on absolutely, and Fortescue is ignorant of all that happened after the tiger struck him. "Oh, quite so," he said vaguely.

"Knowing what I know," I broke in, quickly, "I'm thoroughly well sated out. In confidence, you know that Rao Singh is a cursed liar-but he lies like the gentleman he is, and we respect him for it! What really happened up there in the hills is immaterial-the result only is of importance"

"Oh, yes," said the resident, with an embarrassed air. "By the way, old chap, I'm deuced glad to give you this-rupees fifty, I think it was?". He laid the money on the table.

.'But the bet's not yet won!" I remonstrated, a trifle surprised at his for the sound of shots which would air. "Fortescue is back, of course, tell them that the white sahibs had and Maitland's dead, but there's still the matter of the discrepancy in the funds. What's to save Fortescue from The resident got up and took from

his desk a copy of the Penang Gazette Press, which had come in that afternoon. He pointed out a paragraph and laid the paper before me. One of the local subalterns had committed suicide, after leaving a confession in regard to certain fundsand it was not difficult to read between the lines.

"Do you know," said the resident, when I had finished reading, "I'm rather convinced that you had the right of it about Providence, and so forth! Remarkable - quite! We'll never know what took place up there in the hills-

"Five to one in sovereigns that I find out," I dared him. He took me up with a pitying smile. You may judge for yourself whether I collected the bet!

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The Story of Bronze. URIOUSLY enough, the bronze age

antedated the iron. It would seem that the discovery and use of one metal would logically come before the art of fusing and making an alloy "Wah, Guru!" he grunted again, as of two, for bronze is an alloy com-he plunged bodily against the beast posed entirely or chiefly of copper and tin.

It is believed that the bronze men-One paw caught him across the tioned in the Bible was really bronze. twenty feet away, where he lay mo- ninth verse, it is said that the Hebrews shall have "a land whose The tiger gave a single swipe of stones are fron and out of whose ment seems to have been of the very him, and missed. He fired a third earliest antiquity after those of stone. household articles, such as jugs, cups, lamps and mirrors. In the arts it home bldg, but to merely pass on a was cast into vases and statues. bronze mirrors. They added to the but has his social side like other peocopper and tin a small percentage of ple, and for all I know enjoys a

number of bronze mirrors now extant nearly all are Etruscan. Tin added to copper gives a product more fusible and better suited for casting than copper alone. The more tin employed, the harder and more brittle is the resulting medium. desirable qualities are fusibility, fine patina, the green corrosion so desired by collectors. In the ordinary He fired both barrels in the air and bronze statue bronze has about 80 per cent of copper to 20 of tin. Bel he ejaculated, his hands metal for large bells shows three small bells four parts of copper to

one of tin. Bronze casting as an ar was revived with great vigor by the Germans in the eleventh century. The fine bronze gate of the Cathedral of Hildesheim was cast in 1015. Some years ago there were exhibited in Paris certain remarkable Japanese and Chinese bronzes. Their wonderful dead black color both delighted and mystifled the experts. An

analysis showed that they contained a good provider." a large proportion of lead, the parts being: Copper, eighty; lead, ten; tin, four; zinc, two, and the remaining four parts, iron, nickel, arsenic, sil-The man's agonized eyes found his ver and gold. The secret of the brilnever been entirely understood. The the familys which I have entry to "This is between us, sahib, and we bronze coinage of different countries contains different alloys. The present able palace wile the rest of the domi-British bronze coin is ninety-five cile looks like the inmate was on parts copper, four parts tin, and one

Wet Weather Painting. THERE is an old theory that paint

should never be applied in wet amount of acid produced and the gain mystery.
in weight of the oil film supplied data The ne: from which logical deductions could be made. When dry air was used, the oil gained 18 per cent in weight and the acid production was very low, but when the air saturated with moisture was used, the gain in weight was 50 per cent and the volatile acid products were high.

The conclusion is that the gain in weight was principally due to hydrates having been formed during the drying process. Hydrates are soluble products and, remaining in the paint film, may be washed out in the rain. Apparently the old saying was right -it is better not to do painting in wet weather or when the humidity is

By Ring W. Lardner.

O the editor: It is beginning to it like it ought to be furnished, with look like they would be a big a couple chase lungs and a davenport boon in the building line this and Morris chairs and a piano and spring as materials and labor asbestos rugs, and if you are expecthas come down so far that a person ing to invite me in for the evening I can now build a \$8,000 residence for wished you would also provide a nook \$20,000 to \$24,000 so everybody will be where a person can settle themself to rushing to build their own home and read when the bibbers gets to the I don't know of no more pleasant way story telling stage. to spend money except getting your In regards to the rest of the house, teeth fixed. Personly I am all through the dinning rm. can be about the same

with home bldg, as I can only afford size as in the old days but the table one family and have got them safely should ought to be equipped with housed but I won't never loose my in- drawers and compartments where the



"THE NEXT THING YOU KNOW THERE'S TWELVE TO TWENTY CUSTOMERS PARKED IN THE KITCHEN."

terest in other people that is building cards and chips can be kept. The their nest but will always feel a living rm. can be about the same size bound of sympathy with them and like the old time kitchen and furnishwish them luck which goodness ed with a chair and a lamp so as the knows they will need.

have saw life till they have enjoyed a and contractor which for the benefit FINELY, the modern house should the last named is the man that builds your home at a big loss to himself and the architect is the man that told you it would only cost \$6,000. The architect gets 10 per cent of what ever amt. It finely does cost so of course when the total sum shoots up to \$40,000, giveing him a fee of \$4,000 instead of \$600, why he hollers murder and gets so sore that he takes your money and slams it in the safe.

silver, which helped to give the high home life of his own. I may say at polish necessary for the purpose. Of this pt. that I am in accords with Mr. indsey's idear which is that the time has came for a new style of residence architecture and that the family which now builds their home on the same gen. scheme like homes has been built for the past 100 yrs. will find when they get their home the times as the phone book.

The ground floor plan of the averis spent on rugs, furniture, et all. money to make one rm. look decent, why the liveing rm. is the rm. that

gets pampered.

But was you to strole into the dining rm. or kitchen or any other rm in the joint you would want to rush down to the united charitys and tel them to look into the situation up to Lardner's. And the same holds true in most other homes, at least amongst same, namely the liveing rm. is a vertheir uppers.

"Yes," you will say, "but this is like it should be because the liveing rm. is the show off rm. where the Co. is entertained." ·

WELL brother that may of been weather, because it is less durable how about today? It seems like everyand more likely to wash off than wheres I go we ain't no sooner said used locally and in fact all over paint applied in dry weather. This good evening and how do you do point has been the subject of some when mine host pipes all masculine careful experiments with raw linseed guests out in the kitchen and though boo brooms," and for Chinese scruboil mixed with the usual dryers. This they ain't nothing out there for me, combination was spread on glass and still and all I am not the kind that kept in a current of dry air while relishs being left alone amongst the steel ring left the hand of the protected from other reagents, and beyy of the fair sex, besides which it Sikh. He seemed to throw it awk- the air was freed from carbonic acid ain't generally more than 5 minutes wardly, feebly, yet it sailed upward gas. The dry air was then made to after the men folks has disappeared bubble through alkali solutions of when mine hostess or one of the known strength in order to absorb other ladies gets dry herself and says any acids that might be produced lets go out there and see what them during the oxidation of the oil. The bad boys is doing. Like it was a

The next thing you know they's 12 to 20 customers parked for the evening in a room, which was built to accommodate one medium size Swede and you can't set down because they's only one chair and that's greasy and the quarters is so cramped that nobody escapes without getting at least one full drink spilled on them to say nothing about everybody stepping on your ft, and how good you feel after 5 or 6 hrs. in that kind of atmosphere. So Mr. Lindsey's idear, which I am biggest rm. in the house and furnish without a metallic solvent.

hired girl can have a place to set Nobody can really say that they evenings an read the comics.

of the green horn I will exclaim that in check rm. which you could lease the checking privilege to some needy kid and the arriveing guests could check their raps and get numbers for same and this way they wouldn't be nobody wearing each other's hat home and vice versa. That is if the check rm, boy didn't also get stewed.

But if you ain't got no check rm. they's libel to be all kinds of mix ups and I know of one case where 2 famflys that use to be good friends is now bitter enemies because they was out on a party together one night and article to describe the throws of when it come time to go home the husband of one of the ladies put on suggestion from one Mr. Lindsey of a new velvet evening cape that be-The Etruscans were noted for their Detroit who is in the shoe business longed to the other lady and not only

wore it home but slept in it. RING W. LARDNER. Great Neck, Feb. 3.

Giant Crystals.

ENORMOUS crystals of gypsum, some as large as a man, have been found in a succession of caves in the mining district of northern completed that it is as far behind Mexico. In various parts of the world small grottoes lined with crystals are by no means uncommon; indeed, for age home is something like as fol- the number and size of their crystals, lows, namely, a great big liveing rm. the mines of Santa Eulalia, near Chiin front and back of that a fair huahua, have long been especially size dinning rm. and a little bit of noted. Lately, however, still larger a kitchen. The liveing rm. is 3 or 4 grottoes have been found at the Naica times the size of the other rms. and mines, about eighty miles farther is also the rm. where the most money south. They are nearly six hundred and fifty feet below the surface and If a family have only got enough contain the most remarkable crystals of the kind that have yet been discovered. All of these adhere firmly to a crust that gives out a clear musical Like for inst. you take our liveling tone when anything strikes it. By rm. right here in my home and if you tapping several crystals with a stick was a stranger and walked into same it is possible to get the effect of a you would say to yourself: "Well it chime of bells. The three grottoes at looks like these people was getting the Naica mines are carefully guarded along O. K. and the old man must be by the owners to keep their contents from being damaged.

Palm Fiber for Brushes.

OUITE a fair trade has developed in what is known as "palm fiber" in Hongkong with the United States for the manufacture of brushes. The material is the center of the leaf stem of the small palm (livistona chinensis), which grows wild over much of the South China hill country and which is generally cultivated in some districts for its leaves-the common palm leaf fan of commerce.

The fiber is obtained simply by soaking the stem and stripping off the outside portion. The fiber in the stem is then cut into convenient lengths true enough 3 or 4 yrs. ago but and shipped in bundles of about two hundred pounds each. The fiber is South China in the manufacture of what are popularly known as "bambing brushes and similar articles.

Making Diamonds.

TT was Majorna, an Italian chemist. who succeeded in producing minute artificial diamonds in a manner differing, in one important particular. from the method of Moissan, the French chemist, whose operations in this direction were a sensation at the time.

Majorna heats a piece of carbon with the electric arc, and then submits it to a sudden pressure developed by explosions driving a piston, and amounts to 5,000 times the ordinary pressure of the atmosphere. In the mass of carbon thus treated he finds microscopic crystals which answer the tests for diamonds. Moissan's method was first to dissolve carbon in molten iron and then allow the iron to cool under great pressure. glad to call to the tention of people The Italian chemist's experiments inthat is thinking of building their own dicate that great heat and great preshome, is to have the kitchen in the sure are sufficient to transform ordifront of the house and make it the nary carbon into the diamond form